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COUNTRY Indochina

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SUBJECT Democratic Republic of Vietnam Order of
Battle in Northwest Tonkin

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1. Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) attacks in the Nghia Lo-Phong Tho area in early October 1951 were launched by the following DRV units:
 - a. The 148 Regiment of the 312 Division, the 88 Regiment of the 308 Division and the 154 Battalion of the 209 Regiment, 312 Division, led the attack on Nghia Lo. On 10 October the 88 Regiment withdrew to Phu Doan (105-12, 21-37) and the 154 Battalion withdrew to Phu Ninh (105-18, 21-29).
 - b. Following an attack which destroyed Phong Tho¹, the 165 Regiment of the 312 Division moved to the area northwest of Nghia Lo to engage the second detachment of French paratroopers sent to this region. On 10 October the Regiment retired to Thanh Ba (105-09, 21-25).²
2. Although regular DRV units are now too widely dispersed to stage an immediate large-scale offensive, they are capable of launching several minor attacks in the following areas:
 - a. Elements of the 316 Division are in a position to attack Phu Lang Thuong. The Division headquarters staff left Dong Dang on 25 September and is now established in the Tam Dao Mountain area. The 888 Battalion of the 175 Regiment is now at Huu Lang (106-20, 21-30); the 153 Battalion of the 174 Regiment is at Bo Ha (106-12, 21-27), Bac Giang Province.
 - b. The 320 Division is concentrated in the Cho Bo-Hoa Binh area.
 - c. The 304 Division has left Sai Tuong, Thanh Hoa Province, via Hoi Xuan (105-07, 20-22) and has joined the the mixed DRV-Laotian unit (Lien Quan Lao Viet) commanded by General Hoang Sam³. The combined units are proceeding to Moc Chau (104-37, 20-50) and Mai Hung⁴, southeast of Son La.

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Comment. In view of the present location of DRV forces, the next large-scale attacks by a concentration of regular units will probably take place either in the Thai country or in the middle region around Sontay, Vinh Yen-Phuc Yen and Phu Tho, or concurrently in both areas.

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1. Comment. Although several official references have been made to combat in that area, the French General Staff has not yet confirmed DRV attacks on Phong Tho.

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2. Comment. DRV attacks in the Nghia Lo-Phong Tho area cannot be considered a major offensive, since only four regular regiments took part in the battle and three of these have since withdrawn.

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3. Comment. contains previous reference to Sam as commander of allied DRV-Laotian forces in Thanh Hoa.

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4. Comment. Possibly Muong Hung (103-55, 20-59).

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